THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Government of India released funds amounting to Rs. 7614.66 lakh and Rs. 6250.75 lakh during 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Himachal Pradesh. The funds have been sanctioned by the Government of India based on the Annual Work Plan and Budget of the State.

Students going abroad for higher education

2896. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to ASSOCHAM estimates, around 1,20,000 students go abroad for higher education causing a brain of Rs. 50,000 crore every year in foreign exchange;

(b) whether forex spent every year by Indian students abroad will suffice to set up 40 IIMs and 20 IITs in the country; and

(c) whether the country is expected to contribute 44 million people to the global labour pool over the next five years and if so, whether Government would ensure access to quality higher education and training systems in the country both for domestic and overseas students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No record of the number of students going abroad for higher studies or expenditure incurred thereon is maintained Centrally. Indian students and scholars do go abroad for higher studies. In the present scenario of globalization and liberalization, the movement across the national boundaries for studies and employment is not only inevitable, but also in many cases could give positive benefits to the country. It is considered neither feasible nor desirable to put in place a regulatory framework to prevent the movement aboard of students and technocrats. Quality higher education in the country is already accessibly to domestic and overseas students, subject to their fulfilling the requisite eligibility criteria.

Obesity of school children

2897. DR. M.A. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that school children in the country getting obese due to rampant intake of junk food;